

RECEIVED

SEP 28 1995

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
1993 Annual Access Tariff Filings	)	CC Docket No. 93-193,
	)	Phase I
	)	
1994 Annual Access Tariff Filings	)	CC Docket No. 94-65
	)	
AT&T Communications	)	CC Docket No. 93-193,
Tariff F.C.C. Nos. 1 and 2	)	Phase II
Transmittal Nos. 5460, 5461, 5462	)	
and 5464	)	
	)	
Bell Atlantic Telephone Companies	)	CC Docket No. 94-157
Tariff F.C.C. No. 1, Transmittal	)	
No. 690	)	
	)	
NYNEX Telephone Companies	)	
Tariff F.C.C. No. 1, Transmittal	)	
No. 328	)	

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

REPLY OF BELLSOUTH

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereby submits this Reply per the Designation Order released by the Common Carrier Bureau on June 30, 1995, DA 95-1485. Only MCI Telecommunications, Inc. ("MCI") opposed BellSouth's Direct Case. As shown below, MCI's Opposition forms no basis to reject exogenous treatment of BellSouth's costs incurred as a result of adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 106 ("SFAS-106").

This matter was remanded to the Commission by the United States Court of Appeals in Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, et al. v. FCC, 28 F.3d 165 (D.C. Cir. 1994). In that decision, the Court of Appeals reversed the Commission's conclusion that SFAS-106 costs do not qualify for exogenous treatment under the LEC price cap rules, and

remanded for the Commission to quantify the extent to which such costs are exogenous under the Rules as they then existed.<sup>1</sup> The only issue unresolved by the Court of Appeals is extremely narrow: What portion, if any, of the costs incurred by the price cap LECs as a result of implementing SFAS-106 are also reflected in changes to the GNP-PI? MCI's Opposition does not even address this issue.

In response to the Designation Order, BellSouth and the other price cap local exchange carriers ("LECs") filed extensive supplements to what was already a massive record. MCI's collective Opposition to all of these filings amounts to seven pages of what might charitably be described as rambling musings. MCI totally ignores the Court of Appeals rejection of the argument that the differing assumptions underlying the NERA and Godwins' studies rendered the study conclusions unreliable. In response to that argument, the Court of Appeals held:

Moreover, to the extent that the FCC concluded that because the studies begin with different assumptions, neither could be relied upon, its decision was quite illogical. Given the difficulty of verifying the assumptions that must underlie any such analysis, it was natural for the LECs to cover a range of possibilities. The substantial identity of results in the face of widely varying assumptions tended simply to show that the outcome was insensitive to this

---

<sup>1</sup>The Court made it clear that while the Commission may change its rules prospectively, the question of exogenous treatment of the costs at issue here must be evaluated under the Rules set forth in the LEC Price Cap Order and the LEC Price Cap Reconsideration Order. See 28 F.3d at 173.

variation. That rendered the conclusions more robust, not less. 28 F.3d at 172.

MCI also ignores the response of the authors of the Godwins' study to its prior criticism of the methodology used by the LECs to quantify the possible impact of SFAS-106 on the GNP-PI. In order that the record on the double-counting issue may be perfectly clear, BellSouth attaches to this Reply a "Supplemental Report: Perspectives on Analysis of Impact of SFAS 106 on GNP-PI" ("Supplemental Report") by Peter J. Neuwirth and Andrew B. Abel. In the Supplemental Report, Neuwirth and Abel rebut each of the criticisms leveled at their study by MCI. They conclude:

The criticisms raised by MCI are entirely without merit. There is no serious argument in MCI's statement that would lead us to modify any of the findings in our original report or in any of our subsequent reports. MCI's characterization of the calculations in that report as "nothing more than a random and indiscriminate exercise" is irresponsible and reckless and reveals complete ignorance of the state of quantitative general equilibrium models that are an important part of modern macroeconomics. Supplemental Report at 9.

Neuwirth and Abel highlight the degree of conservatism employed in their study to insure that the impact on the GNP-PI from the adoption of SFAS-106 is not understated.

The philosophy that guided development and implementation of our model was one of conservatism. Recognizing the difficulty of precisely and accurately determining the exact effect of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI, our model was designed to guard against understating the impact on the GNP-PI. Thus the baseline finding that the increase in the GNP-PI (0.0124%) will provide recovery of only 0.7% of increased costs due to SFAS 106 is designed to be an overestimate of the actual impact on the GNP-PI, and the baseline

finding that 84.8% of the LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 remain unrecovered is meant to be an underestimate of the actual percentage. Supplemental Report at 9.

BellSouth compounded that philosophy of conservatism by including only 84.8% of the SFAS-106 transitional benefit obligation ("TBO") in its 1993 annual access tariff filing. This degree of conservatism virtually assures that BellSouth will under recover its actual SFAS-106 exogenous cost.

Having failed to rebut the validity of the Godwins' study, MCI turns to a cursory attack on the raw data submitted by the price cap LECs. Here again, MCI misses the mark badly. MCI does an "apples and oranges" comparison of data submitted by BellSouth and Bell Atlantic to support a conclusion that some of the data "appear suspect". MCI asserts:

For example, BellSouth claims that the average retirement age of its employees is 55, while Bell Atlantic states that the age is 68.5. MCI  
Opposition at 6.

The figure cited for BellSouth, 55, is the average age at which an employee retires: the figure cited for Bell Atlantic, 68.5, is the average age of its retired management employees. It is hardly surprising that the average of retired management employees is higher than the average age at which they retire. Both figures are actuarially determined, and the difference between the two is to be expected. MCI's comparison is either remarkably sloppy, or a deliberate "red herring".

MCI also asserts, gratuitously, that BellSouth maintains "an overly generous program that exceeds both the industry norm, as well as the norm of today's economy" and that "the generosity of the program is determined by a management decision." Predictability, MCI makes no attempt to back up its allegation by showing what is the "industry norm" or the "norm of today's economy". BellSouth's total compensation at each job level is targeted at the median of comparable jobs identified in independent surveys. BellSouth's post-retirement benefits are a part of that total compensation, and are negotiated through vigorous collective bargaining with its unions. They are neither "overly generous" nor the result of unilateral "management decision". MCI has made no attempt to demonstrate imprudence by BellSouth management in setting the compensation levels of its employees. In the absence of such a showing, MCI's assertions in its Opposition are irrelevant.

Finally, MCI argues that LECs that adopted SFAS-106 prior to the deadline of January 1, 1993 should not receive exogenous treatment of costs incurred prior to that date. While this issue does not affect BellSouth, MCI ignores the fact that the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") approved SFAS-106 in December, 1990. While the FASB set a deadline for adoption of SFAS-106 as of "fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1992", it also encouraged

earlier adoption. The Commission specifically authorized the LECs to adopt "on or before January 1, 1993". Under the price cap rules then in effect, all that was required for exogenous treatment was approval of the change by the FASB, the Commission's acceptance of a carrier's notice of intent to adopt, and the carrier's actual implementation of the new standard. See Southwestern Bell, 28 F.3d at 168. MCI does not allege that any of the LECs that adopted SFAS-106 prior to January 1, 1993 failed to meet these criteria. MCI has already led the Commission into reversible error once in this proceeding by suggesting new criteria to be applied retroactively: the Commission should not make the same mistake again.

In conclusion, BellSouth has more than met its burden of proof with regard to the limited costs for which exogenous treatment was claimed in its tariff filing. The Commission should terminate its investigation of BellSouth's tariffs.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By its attorney:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Robert Sutherland", is written over a horizontal line.

M. Robert Sutherland  
4300 Southern Bell Center  
675 West Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30375  
(404) 529-3854

September 28, 1995

## ***Supplemental Report***

---

Perspectives on Analysis of Impact of  
SFAS 106 on GNP-PI

September 28, 1995


## Introduction

Over the past four years, we have been working with various Price Cap LECs to analyze the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. In February 1992, we issued our original report indicating that less than 1% of the Price Cap LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 would be reflected in the GNP-PI, and that approximately 85% of the LECs' additional costs would not be reflected in the GNP-PI or recovered through other macroeconomic effects.

Earlier this year, we were asked to provide an opinion as to the extent to which the findings of our original report, issued three years earlier, should still be considered valid. On August 14, 1995 we issued a report stating that we believe that the actual impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI and the percentage of LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 that remain unrecovered were not materially different than indicated in our original report.

In September 1995, MCI submitted an opposition to our August 14, 1995 report. We find that MCI's criticisms in its opposition are completely without merit. There is nothing in MCI's opposition that would lead us to modify any of the findings in our original report or in subsequent reports we have prepared on this issue. This report provides a detailed response to MCI's submission.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Neuwirth, F.S.A., M.A.A.A.



Andrew B. Abel, Ph.D.



---

## Executive Summary

MCI's opposition is without merit and reflects a failure to understand the modeling and economic analysis in our reports. This report clarifies and further explains the motivation and implementation of the economic analysis underlying our reports. In addition, we discuss in detail MCI's various criticisms and show that they are baseless. The specific points discussed in the body of our report are summarized below.

1. Despite MCI's criticism of our model as a "what-if" model, the question of the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI is precisely a "what-if" question. To address this question quantitatively, we need to determine how much different the GNP-PI would have been if SFAS 106 had not been introduced.
2. Using a set of five criteria outlined in our original report, we decided to use a quantitative general equilibrium model to analyze the impact on the GNP-PI of the introduction of SFAS 106. The numerical values of the model's parameters were chosen by a method known as calibration, which uses existing econometric estimates to determine the numerical values of some parameters, and chooses the values of other parameters so that the values of certain variables in the model match the actual values of these variables in the economy. MCI's criticism of the choice of numerical values for parameters reflects an ignorance of calibration in quantitative general equilibrium models, a method that is widely used in modern macroeconomic analysis.
3. The specification and calibration of the macroeconomic model was guided by a conservative philosophy which, in this context, guards against understating the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. It also guards against overstating the percentage of LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 that remain unrecovered after taking account of the GNP-PI and other macroeconomic effects.
4. The extensive sensitivity analyses performed earlier produce a wide range of numerical results, but the most extreme results are based on combinations of parameter values that are too implausible to be taken seriously. The sensitivity analyses support the conclusion that only a small fraction of LECs' increased costs due to SFAS 106 are recovered through the GNP-PI, and even taking account of other macroeconomic effects, the majority of additional costs will be unrecovered.
5. Despite the fact that the NERA study and our original report used different assumptions about the extent to which the accrual of future OPEB's is a factor in the determination of prices in the absence of SFAS 106, our model can be extended to include the NERA assumption. This extension was implemented in the March 1993 Supplemental Report. Despite some quantitative differences in the findings using the two assumptions, the results are consistent with each other in that for both sets of assumptions the effect on GNP-PI is tiny and a very large fraction of LECs' increased costs due to SFAS 106 remains unrecovered. Although MCI criticizes our model for its ability to incorporate the NERA assumption, we regard this flexibility and the

---

similarity of substantive findings as reinforcing the results in our original report.

6. In light of the findings above, the criticisms raised by MCI are entirely without merit and would not lead us to modify any of the conclusions of our previous reports.

## Rebuttal to MCI

MCI Telecommunications Corporation's Opposition to Direct Cases reflects a continued misunderstanding of the basic economic approach underlying our original report and of quantitative economic analysis in general. In this report, we discuss the basic methodological issues underlying our original report and explain why MCI's criticisms of the methodology are confused and without merit.

### "What-if" Analysis

A glaring example of MCI's misunderstanding is the criticism of our model as a "what-if" tool<sup>1</sup>. As we have emphasized elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> a "what-if" analysis is the only way to calculate the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. The impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI equals the actual value of the GNP-PI in a given year after the introduction of SFAS 106 minus the value of the GNP-PI that would have been observed in that same year if SFAS 106 had not been introduced. To estimate the value of GNP-PI that would have been observed in the absence of SFAS 106 we must ask "What would have been the value of the GNP-PI if SFAS 106 were not introduced?" This is precisely the sort of "what-if" exercise that is criticized by MCI. Although MCI seems to prefer the use of an econometric model, it appears oblivious to the fact that using an econometric model to address the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI is also a "what-if" exercise.

### The Roles of Modeling and Econometrics

Any quantitative study of the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI must make a methodological decision about the type of model to use. In our original report we listed a set of five criteria to guide the choice of a model, and we explained why these criteria led us to use a quantitative general equilibrium model<sup>3</sup>. As explained elsewhere, large-scale econometric models fail to satisfy two of these criteria<sup>4</sup>, and thus these models were deemed inappropriate for our study. Because MCI continues to criticize our model for not being "an econometric model capable of determining with some degree of statistical confidence the impact of SFAS 106 on GNP-PI,"<sup>5</sup> we will revisit the issue of model design from a fresh perspective.

<sup>1</sup> MCI, p. 5

<sup>2</sup> Analysis of Impact of FAS 106 Costs on GNP-PI, Supplemental Report: Responses to Objections Raised Regarding Original Study, July 1992, p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> Analysis of Impact of FAS 106 Costs on GNP-PI, February 1992, pp. 26-27.

<sup>4</sup> Response to Paragraph 16 of FCC Order of Investigation and Suspension, May 26, 1992, pp. 1-2.

<sup>5</sup> MCI, p. 4

To see why MCI's criticism is misguided, it is helpful to understand the role of modeling and the role of econometrics in addressing the question of the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI.

**The Role of Modeling.** In order to determine the effect of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI we need a macroeconomic model that takes account of the interactions of the demand for goods, the production function, and the supply and derived demand for labor, and uses these interactions to simultaneously determine prices, wages, and other labor costs. A model is a set of equations that represent various aspects of economic behavior. The general mathematical form of our model is presented in detail in Appendix C of our original report.

**The Role of Econometrics.** Once a general mathematical model is formulated, the numerical values of the model's parameters need to be selected. Econometric estimation is a statistical technique to choose these numerical values. Our original report does not produce its own econometric estimates of the parameters. Instead the report relies on the results of previous econometric studies in the literature for guidance in choosing the values of parameters. As discussed in our original report,<sup>6</sup> the value of the elasticity of labor supply was chosen based on a survey of the econometric literature on labor supply in Labor Supply by Mark R. Killingsworth. The value of the price elasticity of demand was chosen to be very conservative based on the summary of econometric estimates of price elasticities of demand reported in Economics by Michael Parkin<sup>7</sup>

There are two advantages to using previous econometric studies rather than producing a new set of econometric estimates for calculating the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. First, these previous studies can be viewed as being truly unbiased with respect to the issue of the effects of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI because they were conducted without any reference to this issue. Second, rather than rely on the results of any single econometric exercise, we have based our choices of parameters on a body of research comprised of many studies. Moreover, in using these previous econometric studies to determine the values of parameters, we have been conservative in the sense discussed in the next section.

As we have just discussed, our original report does not perform its own econometric analysis and the model used in that report is not an econometric model, though the model does rely on econometric estimates for some of its parameter values. The numerical values of other parameters are chosen so that the model produces values for some variables that

<sup>6</sup> Analysis of Impact of FAS Costs on GNP-PI, February 1992, p. 30.

<sup>7</sup> A brief summary of the findings reported by Parkin is contained in footnote 4 on page 12 of Analysis of Impact of FAS 106 Costs on GNP-PI, Supplemental Report; Additional Sensitivity Analysis, March 1993.

match the actual values in the economy. For instance, the parameters of the production function are chosen so that the share of labor cost in total cost in the baseline calculation matches the share of labor cost in total cost in the U.S. economy. This approach to choosing numerical values of parameters, which uses both previous econometric estimates and parameter values that allow the model to match certain data, is known as *calibration*.<sup>8</sup> Calibration is commonly used in modern macroeconomic analysis to select parameter values in quantitative general equilibrium models.

### The Conservative Approach

As we have discussed, calculation of the impact on the GNP-PI of the introduction of SFAS 106 is a "what-if" exercise. This calculation necessarily involves estimation of how much different the GNP-PI would have been if SFAS 106 had not been introduced. Because we cannot rerun history and alter it to exclude SFAS 106, nor can we run a controlled experiment, any calculation of the impact of SFAS 106 is an approximation rather than an accurate and precise determination of the exact impact. Recognizing the approximate nature of any such calculation, we adopted a conservative approach to guide the analysis in our original report. In this context, "conservative" means that our calculations tend to overstate the impact on the GNP-PI and thus to understate the fraction of LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 that remain unrecovered.

The conservative approach guided both the actuarial and macroeconomic analyses in our original report.<sup>9</sup> The baseline findings of the original report are that ultimately the increase in GNP-PI (0.0124%) caused by SFAS 106 will provide recovery of 0.7% of the LECs' increase in costs due to SFAS 106, and that taking account of additional macroeconomic effects that might occur, 84.8% of the increase in costs remains unrecovered. The March 1993 Supplemental Report also presents a "best estimate" set of results, which are not subject to the conservative influence guiding the baseline calculations. For example, according to our best estimates, only 0.3% of the increase in LECs' costs due to SFAS 106 are recovered through the GNP-PI. Furthermore, a comparison of the "best estimate" and "baseline" findings supports our original report in two ways. First, the two sets of findings are not very different from each other. Second, the baseline calculations featured in our original report are indeed conservative relative to our best estimates.

<sup>8</sup> Calibration is discussed in Analysis of Impact of FAS 106 Costs on GNP-PI, Supplemental Report: Responses to Objections Raised Regarding Original Study, July 1992, pp. 40-41. Response to Paragraph 16 of FCC Order of Investigation and Suspension, May 26, 1992, pp. 3-5, gives a complete description of the calibration of the parameters in our model.

<sup>9</sup> The conservative approach is explained in Analysis of Impact of FAS 106 Costs on GNP-PI, Supplemental Report: Responses to Objections Raised Regarding Original Study, July 1992. See footnote 4 on page 16 of that report for a discussion of conservatism in the actuarial analysis, and see page 32 of that report for a discussion of conservatism in the macroeconomic analysis.

## The Role of Sensitivity Analysis

In addition to comparing the best estimate and baseline results, we have performed extensive sensitivity analyses.<sup>10</sup> Our August 14, 1995 report<sup>11</sup> discusses the purpose of sensitivity analysis and explains why many of the calculations in our sensitivity analyses should be ignored because they were based on combinations of implausible parameter values. This report clearly and emphatically states that the range of parameter values used in the extensive sensitivity analysis was chosen to make sure that all plausible combinations of parameter values were included, with the recognition that many of these combinations were implausible and should be ignored. It is important to keep in mind that the purpose of the sensitivity analysis is not to delineate the set of plausible combinations of parameter values, but is instead to explore the robustness of our findings and to illustrate the quantitative impact on our findings of various changes in the numerical values of the inputs. Despite this discussion, MCI continues to criticize our findings because they present "extremely wide ranging results of GNP-PI effects".<sup>12</sup> However, this criticism has already been addressed by the detailed discussion of this issue on pp. 4-5 of the August 14 report. Nothing in the MCI opposition addresses any of the substantive arguments on pp. 4-5 of that report, so there is no point in repeating the details of that argument, except for the closing sentence: "To reiterate, our sensitivity analysis presents the results for all combinations of parameter values, including many combinations too implausible to merit any attention."

## Reconciliation with NERA's Analysis

MCI points out that our original report and the NERA study start with different assumptions about the pricing behavior of competitive (unregulated) firms<sup>13</sup>. The difference between the two studies relates to the extent to which firms take account of the current accrual of future OPEB's (other postretirement employee benefits) when pricing their products. To the extent that firms understand and calculate the actuarial value of future OPEB's, the accrual of these OPEB's would be factored into prices by rational forward-looking competitive firms. NERA has chosen to follow the conventional economic assumption that competitive firms are rational and forward-looking and thus assumes that prices would reflect the accrual of future OPEB's even without SFAS 106. However, many workers producing output on any given date will not receive OPEB's until decades later. The calculation of the accrual of these OPEB's is a detailed actuarial task, and some firms may not have the expertise, foresight or inclination to compute and take account of these far-off costs in the absence of SFAS 106. The introduction of SFAS 106 may force such firms to only then factor these costs into their

<sup>10</sup> Our original report contains a sensitivity analysis, and the March 1993 Supplemental Report contains a much more extensive sensitivity analysis.

<sup>11</sup> "Perspectives on Analysis of Impact of SFAS 106 on GNP-PI".

<sup>12</sup> MCI, p. 3

<sup>13</sup> MCI, pp. 3-4

pricing decisions. Consistent with the conservative approach, our original report is based on the assumption that firms ignore the accrual of OPEB's before SFAS 106 and take account of these accruals when SFAS 106 is introduced. Relative to the assumption adopted by NERA, this assumption leads to a larger (i.e., more conservative) impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI and to a lower percentage of the LECs' increase in costs due to SFAS 106 that remains unrecovered.

While NERA's study and our original report used diametrically opposed assumptions about pricing behavior in the absence of SFAS 106, one might reasonably assert that the actual behavior of firms lies somewhere between these extremes. Our March 1993 Supplemental Report<sup>14</sup> recognizes that the assumptions used by NERA and by us are at opposite ends of a spectrum and presents calculations of the impact of SFAS 106 for assumptions at both ends of the spectrum (corresponding to the NERA assumption and our assumption) as well as for various intermediate assumptions. If the actual behavior of firms is somewhere between the opposite assumptions used by NERA and by us, then these intermediate assumptions may better reflect the actual behavior of firms. However, one must not lose sight of the conservative approach guiding our original report. According to our approach, when we are unsure about which of a set of potential assumptions to adopt, we will adopt the one that leads to the largest calculated impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. The results reported on page 5 of the March 1993 Supplemental Report illustrate that the assumption used in our original report is indeed conservative relative to the assumption used by NERA and relative to intermediate assumptions.

MCI (pp. 4-5) mentions the calculations in the March 1993 Supplemental Report that use the NERA assumption about pricing, and criticizes these calculations because they illustrate that our model is a "what-if" model. This criticism is entirely off target. First, we have already explained why a "what-if" model is needed to calculate the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI. Moreover, these calculations can be viewed as adding an extra dimension to the sensitivity analysis. Recall that a sensitivity analysis indicates the quantitative impact on the results of changing various parameters or equations in a model. The calculations reported on p. 5 of the March 1993 Supplemental Report constitute a sensitivity analysis focusing on the assumption underlying pricing behavior. This sensitivity analysis reinforces the major quantitative findings of our original report: the introduction of SFAS 106 has a minuscule effect on the GNP-PI; and an overwhelming share of LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 remain unrecovered. Rather than being a point of vulnerability, these calculations are a source of strength and reinforce the findings in our original report.

<sup>14</sup> Analysis of Impact of FAS Costs on GNP-PI, Supplemental Report: Additional Sensitivity Analysis, March 1993, pp. 3-5.

---

## Conclusion

The criticisms raised by MCI are entirely without merit. There is no serious argument in MCI's statement that would lead us to modify any of the findings in our original report or in any of our subsequent reports. MCI's characterization of the calculations in that report as "nothing more than a random and indiscriminate exercise" is irresponsible and reckless and reveals complete ignorance of the state of quantitative general equilibrium models that are an important part of modern macroeconomics.

Our original report was designed to answer a "what-if" question: How much different would the GNP-PI have been if SFAS 106 were never adopted? As explained in our original report, the choice of a model was thoughtfully and deliberately based on a set of desirable criteria for a quantitative macroeconomic model. These criteria led to a quantitative general equilibrium model rather than a large-scale econometric macroeconomic model, and econometric estimates were taken from the economics literature to calibrate some of the key parameters of the model.

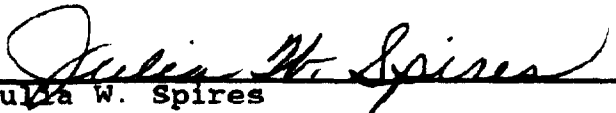
The philosophy that guided development and implementation of our model was one of conservatism. Recognizing the difficulty of precisely and accurately determining the exact effect of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI, our model was designed to guard against understating the impact on the GNP-PI. Thus the baseline finding that the increase in the GNP-PI (0.0124%) will provide recovery of only 0.7% of increased costs due to SFAS 106 is designed to be an overestimate of the actual impact on the GNP-PI, and the baseline finding that 84.8% of the LECs' additional costs due to SFAS 106 remain unrecovered is meant to be an underestimate of the actual percentage.

Finally, MCI has pointed out that our August 14, 1995 report contains no new evidence. We did not present any new evidence because the conservatism in our original report was designed to guard against understating the impact of SFAS 106 on the GNP-PI even if new data turned out to be moderately different from the assumptions used in the study. Moreover, MCI has produced no substantive argument that would lead us to modify our findings in any way.



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 28th day of September, 1995, serviced all parties to this action with the foregoing REPLY OF BELLSOUTH reference to Docket CC 91-193, Phase I; CC Docket No. 94-65; CC Docket No. 93-193, Phase II; CC Docket No. 94-157, by placing a true and correct copy of the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties as set forth on the attached service list.

  
Julia W. Spires

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

International Transcription Service  
Suite 140  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Don Sussman  
Regulatory Analyst  
MCI Telecommunications Corporation  
1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006